CLAIMS

[001] A method for operating a dishwasher comprising at least one washing container, a recirculation pump for conveying washing fluid to at least one spray device for acting upon items to be cleaned, which are located in the washing container, a lye pump for pumping away washing liquid from the dishwasher and comprising a wash program at least composed of the partial program steps pre-wash (V_1, V_2), clean (R_1, R_2), intermediate rinse, clear rinse (K_1, K_2) and dry, wherein the recirculation pump and the lye pump are operated at least temporarily in an alternating manner during at least one part program step (V_1, V_2, R_1, R_2, K_1, K_2).

[002] The method according to claim 1, wherein the recirculation pump and the lye pump are operated simultaneously at least temporarily during a part program step (V_1, V_2, R_1, R_2, K_1, K_2).

[003] The method according to any one of claims 1 or 2, wherein fresh water is supplied at least temporarily during a part program step (V_1, V_2, R_1, R_2, K_1, K_2).

[004] The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein during operation of the recirculation pump the feed valve is simultaneously opened at least temporarily in order to admit fresh water into the dishwasher.

[005] The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the recirculation pump is operated at least temporarily during admission of the washing liquid used for a part program step (V_1, V_2, R_1, R_2, K_1, K_2) into the dishwasher.

[006] The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein during operation of the lye pump the fed valve is opened simultaneously at least temporarily in order to admit fresh water into the dishwasher.

[007] The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein during a part program step (V_1, V_2, R_1, R_2, K_1, K_2) washing liquid is removed at least temporarily from the dishwasher preferably via the lye pump.

[008] The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the quantity of washing liquid used for one part program step (V_1, V_2, R_1, R_2, K_1, K_2) is successively reduced during the relevant part program step (V_1, V_2, R_1, R_2, K_1, K_2).

[009] The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein in the course of a part program step (V_1, V_2, R_1, R_2, K_1, K_2) the washing liquid is substantially completely removed from the dishwasher preferably by means of the lye pump.

[010] The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein after each part program step (V_1, V_2, R_1, R_2, K_1, K_2) using washing liquid, a substantially complete change of washing liquid is undertaken.

[011] The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the speed or the capacity of the recirculation pump for conveying washing liquid can be varied.

[012] A dishwasher characterised in that a method according to any one of the preceding claims is provided for use.

[013] The dishwasher according to claim 12, wherein at least two spray devices are provided which can be supplied simultaneously or alternately with washing liquid by the recirculation pump.

[014] The dishwasher according to claim 13, wherein the washing liquid is conveyed by the recirculation pump to the individual spray devices at different conveying capacity.